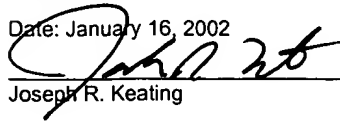


Certificate of HAND DELIVERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being delivered to the United States Patent Office on the date shown below and addressed to the:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: January 16, 2002


Joseph R. Keating

PATENT
38413.7

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Tsukasa YAMAMOTO et al. Serial No.: 09/221,656 Filing Date: December 23, 1998 For: A PRODUCTION SYSTEM FOR RETAIL GOODS AND A RAW MATERIAL ORDERING SYSTEM	Art Unit: 2164 Examiner: F. Poinvil
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SUBMISSION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

Received

JAN 16 2002

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith a true and accurate copy of a Request for Reconsideration, a Petition for One Month Extension of Time, a Notice of Appeal, a Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$110.00 for payment of the fee for the Petition for One Month Extension of Time, a Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$320.00 for payment of the fee for the Notice of Appeal, and three articles described in the Request for Reconsideration, and a copy of the return postcard filed with the above-identified documents in the U.S. Patent Office on November 8, 2001.

The documents identified above all were filed in the United States Patent Office via regular mail on November 8, 2001. A copy of the Certificate of Mailing establishing that the above-identified documents were deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage and addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 8, 2001 is also enclosed.

Applicants have not yet received the return postcard indicating that the Patent Office received the above-identified documents. Further, Applicants have inquired with the group receptionist for Group Art Unit 2164 and have been informed that there is no record of receipt of the above-identified documents filed on November 8, 2001. Applicants believe that due to recent problems with the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Patent Office mail services resulting from security concerns over Anthrax threats, the above-identified documents have not yet been sent to Group Art Unit 2164 and have not yet been entered into the above-identified

application file in the U.S. Patent Office.

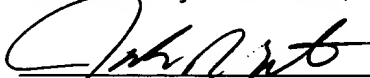
Accordingly, Applicants are submitting a copy of the above-identified documents that were filed on November 8, 2001. Applicants' undersigned representative hereby declares that the enclosed documents are true, accurate and complete copies of the documents filed with the U.S. Patent Office on November 8, 2001.

Applicants respectfully request that the enclosed documents be entered and considered by the Examiner as soon as possible.

To the extent necessary, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for a three-month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action dated July 16, 2001, or until January 16, 2002. If necessary, the Commissioner of Patents is authorized to charge the fee for the three-month extension of time, and any amount due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **50-1353**.

Dated: January 16, 2002

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph R. Keating
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 37,368

KEATING & BENNETT, LLP
10400 Eaton Place, Suite 312
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Telephone: (213) 624-2500

Serial No. 09/221,656 Attorney JRK Mailing Date November 8, 01

Client MICATA Our Ref. No. 38413-4

Title Distribution system for retail goods, etc.

Applicant(s): YAHAMOTO et al

The following, due Nov-16, 2001 in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, was received in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Mail Room on the date stamped hereon:

<input type="checkbox"/> Patent Application, Including:	<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment
<input type="checkbox"/> Pages of Specification, including:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for Reconsideration
<input type="checkbox"/> Claims and Abstract	<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment After Final Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Drawings <input type="checkbox"/> Sheet(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Restriction Requirement
<input type="checkbox"/> Combined Decl./Power of Atty.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Appeal
<input type="checkbox"/> Transmittal Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Brief
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Power of Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee Transmittal
<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment with PTO 1595	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Status Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Response to NTFMP
<input type="checkbox"/> Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> General Authorization to Charge Acct.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of Time	<input type="checkbox"/> Charge Acct. Authorization for \$
<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit Card Payment Form for \$ <u>110.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> IDS w/ Form PTO 1449 w/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit Card Payment Form for \$ <u>320.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u> </u> cited references	<input type="checkbox"/> Check No. <u> </u> for \$ <u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Continued Examination	<input type="checkbox"/> Check No. <u> </u> for \$ <u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Request for App. of Drwg. Corrections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>articles (3)</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXPRESS MAIL NUMBER: <u> </u>	